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July 16, 2013

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: July 9 Meeting with Wireline Competition Bureau Staff

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On Tuesday, July 9, 2013, members of the Alaska Rural Coalition (“ARC”) met with several staff members at the Wireline Competition Bureau (“WCB”). Present from the WCB were Carol Matthey, Michael Jacobs, Kate Douchamel, Amy Bender, and Alex Minard. Shannon Heim attended the meeting in person. Participating via telephone were Michael Burke (Burke Watson), Ken Bahr (Matanuska Telephone Association), Robert Dunn (TelAlaska), Susan Hardenbergh (AKT), Doug Neal (OTZ Telephone Cooperative), Jens Laipenieks of Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative and myself. I am filing this addendum individually as a participant in the call and its content reflects my recollection of additional information from the discussion on July 9th.

After reading the ex parte filing by Shannon Heim, I noticed that there was an omission. During our discussion of Alaska middle mile funding, Carol Matthey commented that Alaska was an oil taxes wealthy state and that any middle mile investment for Alaska would be looked at more favorably if the State contributed some amount of matching funds. Mr. Burke tried to correct this misunderstanding, pointing out that oil production has been falling steadily for the last ten years. I am concerned that any funding decision that is based on the perceived means of a state will be difficult to administer in a fair and equitable manner and could negatively impact our

cooperative's membership, who are primarily Inupiat Eskimos. Alaska is home to two hundred thirty-one of the 565 federally recognized tribes in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS. If you have any questions or I may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Stephen Merriam, CEO  
Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.

cc: Carol Matthey  
Michael Jacobs  
Kate Dumouchel  
Amy Bender  
Alex Minard

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/kitkatestimony06-18-13.pdf>, Sworn Testimony of Julie Kitka, President, Alaska Federation of Natives for House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Oversight Hearing on "Update from tribal leaders and tribal telecommunications providers on the implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's rule on the Universal Service Fund" June 18, 2013.